REGULATIONS

OF THE

GRAND R. A. CHAPTER

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

REVISED AND ADOPTED MARCH 13, A. L. 5838.

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REGULATIONS.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for the better government and regulation of themselves and of the Chapters under their jurisdiction, do ordain and establish the following general and particular regulations.

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

This Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall consist of the following officers, to wit:

Grand High Priest.	Grand Chaplains.
Deputy Grand High Priest.	Grand Lecturers.
Grand King.	Grand Marshal.
Grand Scribe.	Grand Stewards.
Grand Treasurer.	Grand Tyler.
Grand Secretary.	

Together with Past Grand High Priests, Past Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes, and of the High Priests, Kings and Scribes, for the time being, of the several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE II.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall hold two communications in a year; to wit, on the Tuesday next preceding the second Wednesday in March and September, of which the communication in

September shall be the annual communication, and the time for the choice of officers, of whom the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer and Secretary, shall be elected by ballot; and the others shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest, so chosen; all of whom, if present, shall be duly installed on that day, or at such other time as the Grand Chapter shall designate; and if any of said officers shall be absent at the time of his election or appointment, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to forward him due notice thereof, with a request that he would signify his acceptance or refusal in writing, within twenty days at least preceding the next regular meeting of the Grand Chapter; and should any of said officers decline accepting the office assigned him, or neglect to give notice thereof within the time aforesaid, then such office shall be deemed vacant, and filled at the next regular meeting of said Grand Chapter. And all other vacancies of office, by resignation or otherwise, shall be filled at the regular communication, next succeeding the same. And all communications of the Grand Chapter shall hereafter be holden in Boston.

ARTICLE III.

All Grand officers at the time of their installation, shall make the following declaration: "I, A. B. do solemnly promise on the honor of a Royal Arch Mason, that according to the utmost of my knowledge and ability, I will strictly comply with all the laws and regulations of the Grand Royal Arch

Chapter of Massachusetts, the constitution and laws of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, and all other ancient Masonic usages."

ARTICLE IV.

In case of the absence of the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe, it shall be the duty of the oldest past officer of those grades respectively to preside, and in case of the absence of all the past officers, the High Priest of the oldest Chapter present, shall preside.

ARTICLE V.

The Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, King or Scribe of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter, for the time being, shall not be High Priest, King or Scribe, of any subordinate Chapter.

ARTICLE VI.

No person shall be eligible to the office of Grand High Priest for more than three years successively.

ARTICLE VII.

It shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest to appoint one or more discreet and well informed companions, to be styled Grand Lecturer, who shall be commissioned by the Grand High Priest, with the seal of the Grand Chapter affixed, and attested by the Grand Secretary, which commission shall be in force until the conclusion of the annual communication in September, and no longer.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer, when

requested by any subordinate Chapter, and directed by the Grand High Priest, to visit any Chapter under this jurisdiction, and teach them the lectures, mode of work, and all things appertaining to the interest of the degrees, and government of the Chapter; and the Chapter so employing him, shall make him a reasonable compensation for his services.

He shall keep a record of his proceedings and submit it to the inspection of the Grand High Priest when required, and shall make no alterations in the lectures without permission of the Grand Chapter. That the system as established by the Grand Chapter, and taught by the Grand Lecturer, shall be the standard for the regulation of all Chapters under this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VIII.

A committee of three shall be appointed at the annual meeting, immediately after the Installation of the Grand Officers, to be styled the COMMITTEE OF FINANCE, whose duty it shall be to examine and audit all bills presented against the Grand Chapter, together with the Grand Treasurer's and Secretary's accounts and books, and report at the annual communication in September, previously to the election of officers.

ARTICLE IX.

Every petition for a warrant to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, shall be signed by at least nine regular Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, which petition shall be accompanied with a certificate from the Chapter within this commonwealth, nearest the place where the new Chapter is intended to be opened, vouching for the moral character and masonic abilities of the petitioners, and recommending to the Grand Chapter to grant them a warrant; and if it shall meet the approbation of this Grand Chapter, the Grand High Priest shall grant his dispensation for the same, to be in force not exceeding twelve months, and during that time, the members of said Chapter shall be examined with regard to their ability to perform the requisite duties, by a committee to be appointed by the Grand High Priest; said committee to report to the Grand High Priest, and if their report meet his approbation, he shall within the year aforesaid, unless a further time is granted by a vote of the Grand Chapter appoint a time for the consecration of said Chapter and installation of the officers, and direct the Secretary to make out a charter to bear even date with the dispensation, and said Chapter shall pay fifty cents per month for the time it shall have held its warrant.

And if a majority of the members of any Chapter, at a regular meeting notified for that purpose, shall vote to remove their chapter to any other place, the Grand Chapter may sanction and authorize such removal, if recommended by the chapter nearest to the place to which the chapter is proposed to be removed.

The fees for the charter shall be paid upon re-

ceiving the dispensation, and all expenses of the Grand Chapter for the installation of the new chapter shall be paid by the chapter installed.

ARTICLE X.

No warrant shall be granted by this Grand Chapter for holding a Mark Master's, Past Master's, or M. E. Master's Lodge, independent of a Royal Arch Chapter.

ARTICLE XI.

The fees for a warrant for holding a chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and opening lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters, shall be ninety dollars; and the Secretary shall be paid by the petitioners five dollars for his services in executing the charter.

ARTICLE XII.

The several chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall pay for the support thereof, into the hands of the Grand Treasurer, annually, the sum of six dollars, and also three dollars for every candidate, who shall be exalted in such chapter, and shall be entitled to receive of the Grand Secretary one diploma for each candidate exalted.

ARTICLE XIII.

Every chapter of Royal Arch Masons under this jurisdiction, may be represented by their High Priest, King and Scribe, in person or by their respective proxies, at every meeting of the Grand Chapter; and at the annual communication in September, make a duplicate return of the names of their officers and members and of the candidates by them exalted, (one of which returns shall be held by the Grand Treasurer and the other by the chapter) and pay their dues to the Grand Treasurer.

ARTICLE XIV.

No candidate shall be exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason by any chapter under this jurisdiction for a less sum than thirty-one dollars, except the candidate be a regular minister of the Gospel, in which case the chapter exalting him, may, at their discretion, remit the whole, or any part of the fees; and no note of hand shall be taken by any chapter for the fees, or any part of the fees, due on the exaltation or advancement of any candidate.

ARTICLE XV.

The application of any and every candidate, who is a resident in this Commonwealth, for exaltation in any chapter under this jurisdiction, shall be made in writing and signed by the applicant; and said application shall lay over one meeting of said chapter at least for the consideration of the members thereof, and no ballot shall be taken upon the application of any candidate within thirty days from the meeting at which he was proposed, unless in cases of emergency, when a dispensation from the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, or Grand Scribe, shall be obtained; and that no candidate shall be received or admitted to the degrees, without an unanimous vote in his favor.

ARTICLE XVI.

No candidate, residing in any town where a chapter is holden under this jurisdiction, shall be exalted in any other chapter within this jurisdiction, without a recommendation from nine members of the chapter, nearest the place where said candidate does reside, of whom the High Priest, King and Scribe, shall be three.

ARTICLE XVII.

No chapter under this jurisdiction shall receive for exaltation to the sublime degrees, a candidate who is resident in another of the United States, where grand or subordinate chapters are established, agreeably to the rules and regulations of the General Grand Chapter, and whose place of residence is within the distance of fifty miles from any subordinate chapter of the State, in which such candidate lives, unless said candidate's application be accompanied by a special recommendation from a majority of the officers, one of whom must be the High Priest, King, or Scribe of the Chapter nearest the place of his residence, and in the state wherein he resides; or the approbation and recommendation of two of the four first officers of the Grand Chapter of the State wherein he resides, and six members of some one chapter under the jurisdiction of said Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE XVIII.

An applicant to any chapter under this jurisdiction for the sublime degree, who is a foreigner, or

not a resident of any of the United States, where chapters are held agreeably to the regulations of the General Grand Chapter of said States, must have his application written and signed by himself and four members of the chapter to which he applies for exaltation, or by himself and six members of other chapters under this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE XIX.

No candidate, whose application may be rejected in any chapter under this jurisdiction, shall be exalted in any chapter, other than that to which he first applied, without a recommendation from nine members of said chapter, of whom the High Priest, King and Scribe shall be three; and it shall be the duty of every chapter under this jurisdiction to communicate all rejections of candidates to the several chapters under this jurisdiction, as well as to this Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE XX.

No Royal Arch Mason shall be admitted a member of any Chapter under this jurisdiction, unless he shall have regularly received the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason, nor without an unanimous vote in his favor.

ARTICLE XXI.

No Royal Arch Mason shall be a member of two separate and distinct chapters under this jurisdiction at one and the same time.

ARTICLE XXII.

No chapter or assembly of Royal Arch Masons, that may hereafter be formed within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, shall be deemed legal without the sanction of a warrant from this Grand Chapter. Masonic communication, either public or private, is hereby strictly forbidden between any chapter or lodge under this jurisdiction, or between any member of said chapter or lodge under this jurisdiction, and any chapter or lodge that may be so illegally opened, or either of their members, or any person exalted or advanced in such illegal chapter or lodge.

The punishment for breach of any part of this article shall be expulsion and exclusion from the benefits of this Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE XXIII.

The High Priest, King and Scribe of any chapter, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, when not able to attend the communications, shall appoint their proxies by a commission signed with their names, to which their seals shall be affixed, which commission shall continue in force only during the year for which the said High Priest, King, or Scribe was elected.

PARTICULAR REGULATIONS.

ARTICLE I.

At every communication of this Grand Chapter,

previous to the transaction of any business, the chapter shall be opened in due form.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of subordinate chapters, who attend the communications of the Grand Chapter, must appear clothed in their proper jewels.

ARTICLE III.

Every officer of a chapter under this jurisdiction, who, as such, has a right to sit and vote in this Grand Chapter, shall, in case of his absence at any communication, have a right to be represented therein by his proxy duly appointed; provided, however, such proxy be not under the degree of Royal Arch Mason, and that he be a member of a chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter. In case of the absence of the High Priest, the King shall wear his jewel, the Scribe shall wear the King's jewel, and the proxy of the High Priest shall wear the Scribe's jewel. And in case of the absence of the King also, the Scribe shall wear his jewel, and the proxy of the King shall wear the Scribe's jewel.

The form of letters of proxy, shall be in substance as follows, viz :—

To the M. E. Gr. R. A. Chapter of Massachusetts.

BE IT KNOWN,

THAT pursuant to the authority given me by the G. R. A. C. of Mass. I, —— ——, —— of —— Chapter, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint Companion —— —— of ——, to represent me at the meetings of said Grand

Chapter, to be holden at Boston, on the —— day of ——, [or, for the present Masonic year, as the case may be]

Confirming the acts of said Companion, in his capacity aforesaid—I pray that he may enjoy all the privileges and protection to which I am entitled.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this —— day of ——, A. L. ——.

ARTICLE IV.

Every member of this Grand Chapter, and representative thereto, must appear properly clothed with the badges of a Royal Arch Mason.

ARTICLE V.

No companion shall be admitted into this Grand Chapter, but such as are members and voters, except petitioners and witnesses, or those called in by motion. And no person shall be admitted as a visitor at any communication unless some member of said Grand Chapter, or companion of right sitting in the same, will of his own knowledge, declare that such person desirous of being admitted, has regularly received all the degrees appertaining to Royal Arch Masonry, as conferred by the chapters under this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VI.

Whereas it is essentially important, that the mode of working in the several chapters, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, should be uniformly the same; therefore the better to accomplish this desirable object, it shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest, or presiding officer at every communi-

cation hereof to give or cause to be given, the Mark and Royal Arch Lectures, that the officers of the several chapters may be fully acquainted therewith, and dispense the knowledge of them in an uniform and regular manner in their several chapters.

ARTICLE VII.

The accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary, at the annual communication in September, shall be audited, and for their services they shall receive such compensation as this Grand Chapter may deem adequate.

ARTICLE VIII.

Every return from the subordinate chapters shall specify the time when each candidate was marked, passed, acknowledged and exalted; and each chapter shall pay to this Grand Chapter, for every candidate admitted to the degree of Mark Master, one dollar; to the degree of Past Master, fifty cents; to the degree of Most Excellent Master, fifty cents; and to the degree of Royal Arch Mason, one dollar.

ARTICLE IX.

When any member of a chapter under this jurisdiction shall be accused of any offence, which if proved against him, would subject him to an expulsion or other censure, the truth of the charge or charges shall not be examined, until a copy of them in writing shall have been delivered to him fourteen days at least previous to the time appointed for the examination. And no investigation shall be had,

unless at a meeting of the chapter, convened on a formal summons for that purpose. And the examination and decision shall be made according to the rules specially prescribed in a report accepted by the Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE X.

Each chapter under this jurisdiction shall have a seal, which shall be affixed to all communications made to this Grand Chapter, and to all credentials which may be given by such chapter to any member thereof.

ARTICLE XI.

Whenever the by-laws of any chapter require the names of candidates to be inserted in the notifications, a dispensation from a grand officer does not render such insertion unnecessary.

ARTICLE XII.

All motions made in the Grand Chapter, the determinations of which may require to be recorded, shall be handed in writing to the Secretary, who shall present them to the presiding officer for the time being.

ARTICLE XIII.

No vote of the Grand Chapter shall be reconsidered by a less number of voters than were present at the passing of the same.

ARTICLE XIV.

No article in the Constitution of this Grand Chapter, shall be altered, except at the annual meeting thereof, unless the alteration shall have been proposed at a previous meeting.